

Appl. No. 10/082,967
Reply to Office action of December 06, 2005
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IN THE TITLE

Please replace the previous title with the following:

System and Method of Cardiac Stimulation at Oblique Vein

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REMARKS

In the above referenced final office action, the Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Helland in view of Smits. Applicant respectfully traverses the merits of this rejection.

The Smits reference is disqualified as a proper reference under 35 USC 103(c). Specifically, at the time of the invention, the subject matter of the Smits reference and the presently claimed invention were commonly owned or subject to an obligation to assign to Medtronic, Inc. As such, Applicant need not address the substance of the rejection, though traversed.

Thus, the rejection is obviated and the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests notice of the same. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/24/06



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